(d) whether Government propose to moot out higher wage ceiling for admissibility of ESI scheme; and

(e) if so, what are Government's plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c) A Committee was set up in August, 2002 by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Shri M.C. Verma to review the working of the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). The Committee has since submitted its report on 30.1.2003. It has, *inter-alia*, recommended to enhance the coverage of ESIC, extension of ESI Scheme to unorganised sector workers, increase in the wage ceiling for coverage of the scheme, raising of the ceiling on expenditure, that the concept of Model Hospitals should be vigorously pursued, that there should be computerization and simplification of procedures. The Committee has made comprehensive study of the ESI Scheme and suggested methods for its improvements; which have to be examined by the ESI Corporation for their implementation.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Labour Reforms

1025. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal for embarking upon a massive plan of labour reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various political parties and the State Governments as also representatives of the trade union organisations have been consulted in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs of the economy. Taking into consideration the requirement of productivity, competitiveness, employment generation and to update the provisions of labour laws, a need has been felt to make amendments

in certain labour legislations and steps initiated accordingly. Thus, amendments in the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and the Cine workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1981 were recently carried out. Meanwhile, the Second National Commission on Labour has submitted its report to the Government. The Commission has made a wide ranging recommendations on various facets of labour *viz.* review of laws, social security, women and child labour, skill development, labour administration, unorganised sector etc.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has held consultations and interactions with the workers' representatives, employers' organizations, experts, professionals etc. The recommendations of the Commission were discussed in the 38th Session of Indian Labour Conference held on 28-29 September 2002 and in a National Seminar on Unorganised Sector Workers held on 7-8 November 2002 and also in a Tripartite Committee meeting held on 18-19 February 2003. Such steps are being taken to bring about a workable consensus for implementation of the recommendations of the Commission. However, given the procedure involved, it is not possible to specify the time limit.

Employment Provision under India Vision 2020

†1026. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the India Vision 2020 document, there is a plan to provide employment to each youth in the country;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) the number of additional employment opportunities which would to be generated in the country by the year 2020; and

(d) the details of the different sector in the country in which people would be employed alongwith the number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (d) According to India Vision 2020 report, India's vision for 2020 must be founded on the premise of jobs for All and this

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.